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Identical letters dated 9 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to make the following points with reference to the informal meeting of the General Assembly held on 5 March 2012 and further to my letter of 1 March 2012 (document S/2012/130).

The meeting of the General Assembly on 5 March 2012 was the fourth one convened by the President of the Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, concerning Syria. He did not consult or even inform Syria, the State directly concerned. That dangerous precedent will have repercussions for numerous other issues before the United Nations, something for which the President will bear responsibility.

The President's behaviour during that meeting calls into question his impartiality and personal objectivity with regard to the events in Syria. It shows clearly that he is taking advantage of his position to implement his country's anti-Syrian policies. It is especially telling that at the outset of the meeting, he rejected our request for a minute's silence in memory of all victims of the crisis in Syria. Blatantly manipulating the proceedings, he used the meeting to promote the narrow viewpoint of his own country Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other States well known for their antagonism towards Syria. He refused to let the Syrian delegation speak on a point of order after it had requested the floor for the second time, disregarding the principles and procedures of the Assembly in an unprecedented display of autocratic behaviour. That glaring breach of procedure will be remembered in the annals of the United Nations. It reflects a dictatorial attitude that is by no means uncharacteristic of his country's policies.

It has thus become clear to everyone that in responding to the events in Syria, he has not acted solely in his capacity as an impartial President. He has repeatedly issued negative statements and press releases regarding those events, and has repeatedly attempted to convene Assembly meetings in violation of its resolutions and practice. That approach contravenes his mandate as President of the General Assembly, a role that requires impartiality, objectivity and compliance with the Charter of the United Nations. We expressed those very grave concerns to him. the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council in identical letters issued as document S/2012/130.

Member States expect the President of the General Assembly not to be influenced by his country's political position. He was elected to represent all

Member States, and should not use his position to further his own country's agenda and policies. However, in his increasingly strident anti-Syrian statements and press releases, he has overstepped his mandate and adopted a tone inconsistent with his duty to seek consensus and mediation. In so doing, he has favoured the approach of certain States inimical to Syria while ignoring other States that reject intervention in Syria's internal affairs. This latter group stresses the need for a comprehensive national dialogue that would safeguard the country's stability, promote the interests of its citizens and foster a peaceful resolution to the crisis without manipulating the Syrian people.

Under this very President, the General Assembly has adopted dozens of resolutions concerning the Israeli occupation of Arab territories including the Syrian Golan. It is therefore strange that he has not requested a single meeting to discuss that important issue — the most important item on the agenda of the United Nations since its establishment — especially in view of the escalation in Israeli settlement activities and attacks on the holy sites, possessions and liberties of Palestinian citizens in the occupied city of Jerusalem and elsewhere. It is ironic that just as his predecessor Father Miguel d'Escoto devoted the bulk of his time and energy to the defence of the Palestinian cause, the current President — who was elected upon the nomination of the Group of Arab States — devotes the bulk of his time and energy to obscuring Israel's grave violations of Palestinian rights by using the Assembly's efforts and resources in a pathological manner to denounce and denigrate Syria. At the current session, the Assembly has adopted two resolutions condemning Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and calling on the international community to bring an end to it and remedy the injustice inflicted on Syrian citizens living under occupation. The President has not addressed the implementation of those resolutions. Instead, regrettably, he promptly requested the Secretary-General to present an oral report regarding the General Assembly resolution on Syria. He has convened successive meetings on that topic, to the detriment of the dozens of significant resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its current session.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations